

In the Specification

Applicants present replacement paragraphs below indicating the changes with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 32 with the amended paragraph as follows:

Turning to the drawings, Figures 1-4 show an illustrative embodiment of a snowboard binding including a snow gasket. The binding 100 includes a baseplate 110 and a rear support member 120 that surrounds at least the back of a rider's leg, e.g., a heel hoop. The binding floor 115 may have, as shown, a substantially planar bottom for mounting to a surface of a snowboard 130, and has a boot receiving area for accepting a boot 140. The baseplate may include one or more holes that are registrable with an insert pattern in a snowboard. Tightening of fastener inserts extending through the holes and into the board, will mount the binding to the board. The baseplate may be provided with an aperture, as shown in Fig. 2, adapted to receive a hold down disc (not shown) that will carry the holes for receiving the fasteners that connect the binding to the board as is commonly provided in snowboard boot bindings. Boot engagement members, such as one or more straps, or strap-less engagement arrangements (e.g., step-in binding mechanisms), may be provided to secure the boot in the binding. A highback or other leg support member may be mounted to the rear of the baseplate and may include a forward lead adjuster or other surface that abuts against the top or other surface of the heel hoop, allowing rearward flexing of the rider's leg against the highback to transmit forces down the highback, through the heel hoop, along the baseplate to the insert hardware and, ultimately, to the board.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 17 with the amended paragraph as follows:

An opening 150 is formed between a rearward edge ~~115~~ of the floor 115 of base 110 and the rear support member 120. As shown in Fig. 1, when a snowboard boot is

seated in the binding, a heel end of the boot projects into the opening 150. A gasket 160 is arranged to cover at least a portion of the opening 150. As illustrated, the gasket 160 covers the entire opening, extending from one side of the opening to the other, and from the top of the opening to the bottom. However, the invention is not limited to an embodiment where the gasket fully covers the heelside opening. Embodiments are contemplated where the gasket extends completely from side to side, but not fully from top to bottom, and from top to bottom but not completely from side to side. Other embodiments are directed at covering various sections of the opening with the gasket while leaving other sections of the opening exposed. While the gasket is illustrated as a single member, the coverage of the opening, whether full or partial, may instead be provided by one or more individual, discrete gasket elements.